

Message Text

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14

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 010331Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1296

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EXDIS

DEPT PASS USIA FOR AUSTIN/ISA, STATE/NEA FOR CONSTABLE

FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: USIS BANGLADESH -- RESTITUTION AND REHABILITATION

REF: (A) USIA 20542, (B) DACCA 4787

1. AT THE CONCLUSION OF YOUR VISIT HERE LAST WEEK I PLEDGED MY COOPERATION AND THAT OF THE MISSION TO MOVING AHEAD ON THE MANY PRECISE AND EMPHATIC SUGGESTIONS YOU MADE FOR A MORE EFFECTIVE PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM IN BANGLADESH.

2. THERE IS VERY LITTLE THAT I OR ANYONE ELSE CAN DO TO SUSTAIN A CREATIVE SPIRIT HERE UNTIL AGENCY DISPELS THE HECTORING TONE OF MESSAGES EXEMPLIFIED BY USIA 20542. IN THAT PARTICULAR MESSAGE AND ESLEWHERE I LOOK IN VAIN FOR ANY WORD OF APPROBATION OR EVEN SATISFACTION ON THE PART OF THE AGENCY THAT THE MISSION HAS BEEN ABLE TO COLLECT PARTIAL PAYMENT RESTITUTION CLAIM FROM BDG. GIVEN THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF BDG, OUR SUCCESS IN MAKING EVEN THIS PARTIAL COLLECTION IS NO MEAN ACCOMPLISHMENT.

3. IN DACCA 4787, WE HAVE ANSWERED, I TRUST, TO AGENCY'S SATISFACTION ALL QUESTIONS RAISED IN REF (A). WE ARE READY TO
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ANSWER MORE QUESTIONS IF NEED BE, BUT WE ARE ALSO MORE THAN READY AND EAGER FOR SOME INDICATION THAT AGENCY IS DISPOSED TO FIND WAYS OF SPEEDING UP THE FINANCING OF THE RELOCATION PROJECT.

4. I TAKE IT THAT HERE IN DACCA WE CAN DO NOTHING ON AUDITORIUM CONSTRUCTION UNTIL AGENCY ENGINEERS IN WASHINGTON HAVE EVALUATED PLANS PREPARED HERE. CAN WE ASSUME THAT AGENCY CONSIDERS AUDITORIUM SUFFICIENTLY IMPORTANT THAT WE BEGIN AND COMPLETE IT BEFORE THE NEXT RAINY SEASON BEGINS?

5. AS FOR COMPENSATION FOR LANDLORDS, I ASSOCIATE MYSELF COMPLETELY WITH THOUGHTS SET FORTH IN REF (B). THIS COMPENSATION ITEM WAS SPECIFIED IN NOTE TO MFA DATED MARCH 13, 1973 (DACCA 1117). I AM PUZZLED THAT AGENCY HAS WAITED UNTIL NOW TO CHALLENGE JUSTIFICATION.

6. THRUST OF FOREGOING COMMENTS IS TO APPEAL TO ALL CLEARING OFFICERS IN ISA TO KEEP IN MIND THAT "TECHNICAL MESSAGES" ARE READ HERE AS EMANATING FROM SAME AGENCY AS SUBSTANTIVE OR PROGRAM MESSAGES.

7. USIS DACCA HAS ENDURED MANY VICISSITUDES DURING PAST YEAR. INSPIRED WITH AGENCY'S SUPERIOR HONOR AWARD, THE POST IS PREPARED TO FACE MORE. LET US AGREE THAT DACCA CAN SURVIVE AND FLOURISH UNDER CONTINUOUS VIVISECTION, BUT ONLY THE AGENCY IN WASHINGTON CAN SUPPLY THE ACCOMPANYING ANAESTHETIC.
NEWBERRY

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USIA.

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